



Plastic Trash Bag Program

- ◆ Report to the Legislature
 - Originally due October 2001
 - Delayed pending results of Plastics White Paper
 - Report updated to reflect:
 - Plastic White Paper recommendations
 - Program implementation results for 2003
 - Stakeholder feedback



Review and Approval Process

- ◆ Initial 30 day review ends: September 10
- ◆ Release revised report: September 27
- ◆ Final report to Sustainability and Market Development Committee: November 3
- ◆ Final report to Board: November 9-10



Purpose of Today's Meeting

- ◆ Take comments on the draft Report
 - Refrain from responding to other's comments
 - Ensure everyone has a chance to comment before debating merits of any suggestions
 - Please follow up with written comments

Michael Leao, Supervisor

Plastic Recycling Technologies Section

California Integrated Waste Management Board

1001 I Street, P.O. Box 4025

Sacramento, CA 95812



Legislative Requirements:

- ◆ Statute requires the Board to address the following topics:
 1. Names and locations of PCM suppliers
 2. Quantity of PCM supplied
 3. Recommendations re:PCM minimum content requirements
 4. Identify the gauge of all regulated bags
 5. Determine if there are separate production lines for national vs. California markets



Key Recommendations

- ◆ Focused on addressing issues identified by the Plastics White Paper and stakeholders:
 - Difficult to comply with existing minimum content requirements
 - 10 percent in regulated trash bags
 - 30 percent for all plastic products (exclusive of regulated rigid plastic packaging containers)
 - Quantity and quality of available PCM is inadequate
 - Plastic lumber and export markets taking available PCM
 - The law is ineffective
 - Need a more comprehensive solution to plastic film recycling



Difficult to Comply with Existing Minimum Content Requirements:

- ◆ Tiered Certification Structure – provide greater flexibility re: compliance options:
 - 10% in all plastic film products
 - 25% in all plastic products
 - Allow PCM used in RPPCs to count
 - 10% source reduction in plastic products
 - Exempt biodegradable film products, meeting ASTM 6400, from minimum content requirements



Quantity and Quality of Available PCM Is Inadequate

- ◆ Current programs/projects:
 - QA/QC Guidelines
 - Materials Database & PCM Suppliers list
 - CalMax
- ◆ Support new and expanded film collection & processing infrastructure
 - Mil fee on sales of film plastic products
 - Provide loans and/or grants for recycling infrastructure improvements and RCP market development
- ◆ Establish a PCM purchasing co-operative



The Law is Ineffective

- ◆ PTBs may not be best option for recycled content:
 - Single use
 - Technical challenges (gauge of film)
 - Largest PTB manufacturers routinely asking for exemptions
- ◆ Recognize need for a more effective means of diverting film plastic
 - PTBs small fraction of plastic film
 - Focus on Ag and commercial film
- ◆ Keep the current law until a new law replaces it
 - Processors cite need for law to help provide markets



Recommendations Could Serve as a Basis for Developing “a More Comprehensive Solution”

- ◆ Include manufacturers of a broader array of film products in a certification process
- ◆ Program elements to include:
 - Product Stewardship and financial responsibility
 - Waste prevention and source reduction
 - Minimum recycled content requirements
 - Exemptions for biodegradable products



Develop Legislative Proposal Through a Collaborative Process

- ◆ Board led process to develop proposed legislation for 2005 Session
- ◆ Goal would be to significantly increase the diversion of film plastic from disposal
 - 1999 Waste Characterization Study found that 1.5 million tons of plastic film was disposed of in California's landfills
 - New disposal data should be available by October



Conclusion:

- ◆ Board must submit a report on status of, and make recommendations in regard to, the PTB program.
- ◆ Recommendations could also serve as a basis for discussing development of a more comprehensive solution to diverting film plastic from California's landfills, and repeal of the existing PTB law.